

Shipmates,

Recently, I had the honor of greeting more than 100 Returning Warriors at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. These Sailors were returning from deployments all over the world, including Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and Germany. Along with our individual augmentees, I met medical personnel from the Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit who provided vital warrior care at a trauma center in Kandahar. Waiting for them upon their return were family and loved ones with open arms. I had the pleasure of speaking with Lt. Isaac Ortman after stepping off the plane. I asked him how his day was going and he said it was a truly a great day; his daughter was turning four years old and he was about to reunite with his family. I spoke with several Sailors that afternoon and each one reminded me of the sacrifices made by our Navy families. It was a true honor to welcome our shipmates home and thank them for their service at the “tip of the spear.”

During recent visits across the force, I’ve seen countless examples of Reserve Sailors seamlessly integrating with the active component. Just recently, USS Freedom (LCS 1) began her maiden deployment to Singapore. Seven Reserve component (RC) Sailors have been supporting Freedom’s workups, deployment, and Forward Liaison Element (FLE) in Singapore. Hull Technician 2nd Class Nathaniel Vaughn, Engineman 2nd Class Elijah Eggers, and Electrician’s Mate 2nd Class Rene Herrera all participated in Freedom’s pre-deployment training and workups. In late March, four additional RC Sailors, including Senior Chief Engineman (EXW/SW/AW) John Ruela, Electronics Technician 1st Class Aaron Adami, Electrician’s Mate 1st Class Ji Park, and Fire Controlman 1st Class Christopher Chavez forward deployed to Singapore to support Freedom’s FLE. This is a shining example of the total force concept: our RC Sailors operating forward, performing key roles in new mission areas, and fully integrating with the Navy.

This month’s TNR highlights Reserve naval aviation and its incredible contributions to the Navy. Our squadrons within the Reserve force have always been valued for providing specialized capabilities, experience, and depth to the fleet. Today our Reserve squadrons perform missions such as adversary, fleet essential airlift, special operations, anti-submarine warfare, reconnaissance and mine countermeasures support. Our Squadron Augment Units across the country help train our next generation of naval aviators and flight officers by providing seasoned instructors to our training and fleet replacement squadrons. In this edition of TNR you’ll find some great articles about Navy Reserve aviation. I encourage you to take a look.

Within the halls of the Pentagon, I am routinely told of the value the Navy Reserve brings to the total force. And while we have important work ahead, the Navy Reserve has never been more relevant. Thank you for your hard work and incredible accomplishments. I look forward to seeing you around the fleet.

Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun

Chief of Navy Reserve